Wisconsin Biology Technical Note 5
Invasive Plant Species Control

This technical note is intended to be used as a guide to control invasive plants, both native and non-native species. This technical note is attached to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Pest Management Standard (595) which will be referenced and followed as well.

Background:
Invasive plants invade native plant communities and impact those communities by displacing or replacing native vegetation. A plant that establishes and invades only in seriously disturbed areas (especially disturbed ground) is defined as a "weed" rather than an "invasive plant."

Purposes:
This technical note may be applied to support one or more of the following purposes:

- To provide for the control of invasive plant species where commodity crops are not produced. Wild rice is recognized as a specialty crop and not a commodity crop.
- To minimize the economic, ecological and human health impacts caused by invasive plants.
- To increase, restore, or protect native plant communities.

Conditions Where Practice Applies:
This practice applies to the following circumstances:

- On all non-commodity crop producing areas where invasive plant species will, or are likely to, impair intended use(s).
- All uses and habitats where protection or diversification of native or non-native plant communities is desired.
- In areas where invasive plants create a human and/or animal health hazard and/or safety hazard.

Criteria for Vegetative Manipulations:
Control or prevention of invasive plants may be accomplished through mechanical, chemical, biological, manual (pulling by hand), prescribed burning, or a combination of all of these methods. Control methods will be designed to protect and encourage the growth of desirable native plant species. Control of an invasive plant species will be considered to have been accomplished when the objectives of the required management plan have been met.

When using chemical control, spot treatment methods will be used whenever feasible to apply herbicides. Herbicides will be handled and applied in accordance with the product label and any state or local regulations or laws.

Properly dispose of mechanically or manually removed invasive plants to insure that the invasive species does not spread or re-colonize into new areas.

Noxious weeds identified by state and local governments will be controlled. Refer to University of Wisconsin "Weed Science" website for noxious weeds in Wisconsin at *http://ipcm.wisc.edu/uw_weeds/extension/articles/noxiouswis.htm* for a list of prohibited and restricted weed species.

Areas where control measures have been implemented may require re-vegetation to desirable plant species. Refer to Wisconsin NRCS FOTG for applicable planting standards such as Pasture & Hayland Planting (512), Tree/Shrub Planting (612), Conservation Cover (327), Critical Area Planting (342), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643), Forest Stand Improvement (666), and Prescribed Burning (338).

The impacts of the invasive plant species control method(s) on threatened and endangered species shall be evaluated.

Considerations:

Consider the off-site impacts of control methods (i.e., smoke from controlled burning, herbicide runoff/drift).

Plans and Specifications:

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and, as a minimum, an Invasive Plant Species Control Plan will be prepared for each area where plants are to be controlled.

Invasive Plant Species Control Plans will contain the following:

- ✓ Stated objectives and level of control.
  - Identify invasive target plant species
  - Level of control (containment, eradication, etc.)
- ✓ Habitat or land use being or likely being impaired.
  - Identify each site and amount (acreage or square feet of target area)
- ✓ Control method(s) to be used.
  - Mechanical, biological, chemical, manual
- ✓ Timing of control.
  - Number of applications & timing of each
- ✓ Method of re-vegetating treated areas and species to be introduced into the treated area (if applicable).
- ✓ Method of disposing of treated invasive plant materials.
- ✓ Schedule for monitoring re-growth and plan for follow-up control measures if re-growth is detected within the control area.

Operation and Maintenance:
Areas where control measures have been taken will be monitored as a minimum annually for detection of re-growth or re-introduction of control species into the control area. Any re-growth of the targeted species into the treated area(s) will be controlled with follow-up treatment(s).

References:
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
http://www.ipaw.org/

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Invasive Species
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/

Federal and State invasive species activities and programs
http://www.invasivespecies.gov/profile/main.shtml

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Invasive Weeds of Wisconsin
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/invasive.html

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV
http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=WI